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A

LETTER

TO THE

SEVEN LORDS

OF THE

COMMITTEE,

Appointed to

Examine *GREGG*.



L O N D O N

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A

L E T T E R

To the Seven Lords of the COMMITTEE
appointed to Examine GREGG.

Y Our Lordships have, for these Fifteen or Sixteen Months last past, been treated by the *Publick Writers*, such as say they are allowed, approved, and encouraged, by our Great Folks, as *Rogues, and Rascalls, Cheats, and Villains, Enemies of the Nation, Affronters of the Queen, Subverters of the Constitution*, and such as have been long endeavouring to destroy both *Church and State*. Thus you have been treated in common with the present *General*, the late Lord *Chancellor*, the late Lord *Treasurer*, the late *Secretaries of State*, and almost all that had any thing to do in what is call'd the *late Ministry*. But it is but since the 8th of *March* last past, that your Lordships in particular, have been compared to *Murderers and Assassines*; and exposed to all the Kingdom, as Men that would, by your *Menaces, and Promises, and Bribes*, have *Suborned* the Criminal *Gregg*, to confess Mr. H. (now E. of O.) guilty of *Corresponding with Her Majesty's Enemies*, in order to the taking away his Life.

A

The

The *Examiner*, who would have us believe he is employ'd to Write for the Government, and only against such as are Enemies to the Q. and State, this same *Examiner*, in *Paper 33*, speaking of *Guiscard's* Villainous attempt upon Mr. *H.* makes the following Reflections on it, " Had such an Accident happen'd under
 " the late Ministry, and to so considerable
 " a Member of it, as Mr. *H.* Commissioners
 " would have been sent, to promise the
 " Criminal his Life, provided they might
 " have liberty to direct and dictate his Con-
 " fession. And a Black List would have been
 " Printed of all those who had been ever
 " seen in the Murtherers Company. But
 " the present Men in Power hate and de-
 " spise all such detestable Arts, which they
 " might now turn upon their Adversaries,
 " with much more Plausibility, than ever
 " These (i. e. your Seven Lordships) did
 " their Honourable Negotiations with
 " Gregg.

" And here it may be worth observing,
 " how unanimous a Concurrence there is
 " betwixt some Persons once in great Power
 " and a French Papist, both agreeing in
 " the great end of taking away Mr. *H's*
 " Life, tho' differing in their Methods. The
 " First (i. e. your Lordships) proceeding
 " by Subornation ; the other (i. e. *Guiscard*)
 " by Violence: Wherein *Guiscard* seems to
 " have the advantage, as aiming no fur-
 " ther

against *Popery* and *Faction*. Yet how should we be made to believe, *from thence*, that *Seven great Lords* intended, heretofore, to Murther the same great Person, but by ways much more detestable and villainous? And yet this is the *Examiners* Consequence; this is the Conclusion of a Man, that, every day, tells us he Writes in Defence of the Government, and would make us believe he is set on Work by great People. He says in Paper 34. *Your Tongues were very Swords, and your Penknives Axes.* This, he thinks, is a very elegant Expression; but the *English* of it is, that your Lordships would by *Subornation* have taken away the Life of Mr. H. And least his Reader should (for want of knowing him) imagine it impossible for any Man that had any Sense of Justice, or Honour, to charge *Seven Peers*, with an attempt of such a horrid nature, He says it openly and in so many Words, in Paper 35. only with this Difference, that He now joyns *others* with your Lordships, of whose Company you have not been heretofore ashamed.

“ *I said, They had formerly a Design against*
 “ *Mr. H's. Life: If They were now in Power,*
 “ *would they not immediately cut off his Head,*
 “ *and thank Me, for justifying the Sincerity*
 “ *of their Intentions?* What sort of Consequence is this? I should now be extremely glad to have the *Examiner* severely punish'd, for abusing the greatest Men of the

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the Kingdom; and I should thank the *Justice of the Nation*, for doing what so well became them: And yet I never had one evil thought against the *Examiner*, before, much less design'd him any Mischief. And yet the *Examiner* affirms, as much as if he knew it true, that, because your Lordships would, if you were now in Power, *immediately* cut off Mr. H's Head, therefore you had *heretofore* a Design to destroy him, by *Sabornation*. How the *Examiner* should know your Lordships Hearts, I, who hardly know my own, cannot imagine. 'Tis very well that Peoples Heads are to stand upon their Shoulders as long as the *Law* will let them; if it depended upon any thing *besides*, it may be, your Lordships seven Heads might be as soon cut off, as that one Gentlemans, were you in Power. *May the Head, that has done the Kingdom the greatest Mischief, fall first, let it be whose it will!*

After this abandon'd Wretch has screen'd himself under the Protection of the Address of P——, and made that *Great Body* say what he was pleas'd they should, that he might say it after them, 'tis wonderful to find him seeking for farther Security, in the Example of a great Man indeed, but yet a single Man, who had said, that *Mr. H. had been wonderfully Preserv'd from some unparrall'd Attempts.*

Now

Now this great Critick of an *Examiner*, finding that *Some* was of the Plural Number, and that *Guiscard's* attempt was but *One*, immediately concludes from the *Correct Style* of the foreſaid *Orator*, that this Plural Number muſt, in all probability, take in the buſineſs of *Gregg*: And thereupon He falls to compliment that *eminent Perſon*, upon the matter of *Style*, and *Superiority of Spirit*; but tells him, that, let him expreſs himſelf, as loſtly and finely as he would, yet he meant to ſay in plain *Engliſh*, that there was a *Committee of Seven Lords*, ſent to a *Condemn'd Criminal* in *Newgate*, to bribe Him with a *Pardon*, on Condition he would ſwear *High Treason*, againſt His Maſter. 41. And there, your Lordſhips have the matter out; in his own Words. He ſays—He knows but of two *unparallel'd Attempts* againſt Mr. H. which are thoſe of *Gregg*, and *Guiscard*: That of *Guiscard*, he beltows (and yet as little as he can) on *Guiscard*: That of *Gregg*, he Fathers upon *Three Dukes*, *One Earl*, *One Viſcount*, and *Two Barons*. Is not that *eminent Perſon* much indebted to the *Examiner*, who, becauſe he will not let him ſpeak (as he thinks) improperly; will make him call your Lordſhips, *Murtherers* and *Villains*? I ſhould have thought, a Gentleman of Honour and of Virtue, would have been better pleas'd, to have made a *Solecism* in Speech (had it indeed

been such) than rais'd a Calumny; and to have written somewhat less *correctly*, than to mean *Maliciously*. But thus it is, the *Examiner* had said these things himself before, That your Lordships were Guilty of intended *Murther*, by *Subornation*, and fearing his Authority and Credit were not great enough to support this dreadful weight, He does, with his own Impudence, and with the Malice of a *Dævil*, bring in *Both Houses* of P—— to say and mean the same thing, and afterwards (upon another Occasion) this very Honourable *Gentleman*, to strengthen his security. Let the *Examiner* answer for his Usage of those *Great Names*, as well as he can, he seems, to me, to be distrustful of his Credit and his Safety, at the bottom: He who runs here, and there, and every where, for shelter, is far from thinking himself secure. This, *My Lords*, is the matter of Fact; thus are you handled by the *Examiner*, the *Favourite Writer of the Times*, the *Tory-Ladies Politician*, the *Guide* and *Oracle* of the *Inferiour-Clergy*, and great Defender of the *New World*.

But I am bound to do Him Right, bad as he is; There was an Author of equal *Face*, and equal *Fame*, and almost equal *Esteem*, with the Children of the *New Church*, that started this great Slander, four Days at least, before the *Examiner* could get it into Print; I dare not say before it came into
his

his *Heart*, but before his *Periodical Day* of Slandering came, to utter it. The *Post boy*, March the 10th, after he had given an Account of *Guiscard's* villainous attempt upon Mr. H. adds—*It is said that Seven Great and Excellent Men, are to meet at a House near Charing-Cross; and that they will find Witnesses to prove, that, notwithstanding Mr. H. discover'd this Treason, as He did likewise that of Mr. Gregg, yet that H. was an Accomplice of the Man, who would have Murd'r'd him.*

And March the 17th, He says, His Intentions, in the foregoing Passage, were to expose the most Dishonourable and Scandalous Practices of Seven Men, in the business of Gregg. And a little lower, in the same Paper—to expose the blackest Conspiracy, that ever was form'd by Seven Men, or perhaps by any One Man in the whole World, against the Life of that Honourable and Innocent Gentleman.

The *Examiner* alone can tell us, if he will, whether he truly borrowed his *Accusation* from that Rascally Paper, or whether (by a natural Concurrence of the Mind in Villainy) he also *invented* it, as well as His Good Brother. But be that as it will, 'tis manifest, that the *Examiner* has improv'd it to the height, and only wants the Honesty of the other to set his *Name* to it, and at what *Sign* he Lodges; for I believe it is not his Modesty that hinders us from knowing who he is.

There is now also, *My Lords*, another Book, fresh in my Hands, whose Title is — *Secret Transactions*, &c. Printed in a better Letter, and on better Paper than is usual, and the whole Sheet is sold for a *Penny*, which, I am told, no *Bookseller* can well afford, at such a Rate, without the Assistance of some that bear *Good Will* to your Lordships, in order to spread the same *Charge* and *Accusation*. In this Book, your Lordships are gotten into the Hands of the *Ordinary of Newgate*, and of one *Francis Hoffman*, who may, for any thing I know, be *Another Officer* belonging to that House. And your Lordships shall see, how you are treated, by these two great Authors: *Francis Hoffman* tells the World, that the *Ordinary* did in a most solemn and ready Manner, tell him of so many endeavours to corrupt Gregg's Conscience not only with repeated Offers of Life, but of great Preferments and Advantages, that He felt as much uneasiness, lest Gregg should betray his Master, as if it had been his own Case. And Page 6. the next words — That 'tis apparent from hence, that Some Persons (your Lordships certainly) Stabbed, as directly and villainously, at Mr. H's Life then, as Guiscard did since. This is the Language that Master Examiner hath taught *Francis Hoffman*, (whoever he is) to speak. But I would take leave to observe upon this Passage, that a *Servant* is said to betray his Master, tho' what he confesses

fesses of him should *be true*. How comes *Hoffman*, therefore, to be under such an uneasyness, least *Gregg*, should *betray his Master*, when he might, for ought he knew, confess what was exactly *True* of that his Master? Could any one alive, but *Gregg*, tell whether what he would say of his Master, should be true or false, till he knew what was said? An indifferent Person might as well have been uneasy, for fear *Gregg* should discover something of his Master, that would touch his Life, and yet might have been *True*. 'Tis certain he neither did, nor would confess any thing, but what did manifestly clear his Master; and his Master was accordingly untainted. This uneasyness therefore of *Francis Hoffman*, or of the *Ordinary*, seems to me, to be ill-timed, and has rather appear'd since the Advancement of *Gregg's* Master, than whilst he was under Examination, and his Master's Conduct only *inquired into*. These Poor Creatures would compliment the *Great Man*, with their Solicitous concern for his Safety, (but they tell him so now he is safe and great) and since that cannot be done thoroughly, without doing your Lordships the greatest Injury in your Honour and Good Name, that, it seems, is now to be ventured.

The *Ordinary* himself says, P. 8, *that when Gregg had clear'd Mr. H. of knowing any thing of his Corresponding with France, He* (i. e. the
Or-

Ordinary) grew jealous of those People that frequently came to Him. And he says moreover, that to some of Mr. H's Friends, who came to Gregg, He (i. e. the Ordinary) express'd some dislike of Gregg's being so much disturb'd by Persons that resorted to him, at unreasonable Hours, when he should have been at Prayers; But he knew not Who those Persons were, that thus came to him. And again—As Gregg also told me, he was proffered his Life, and a great Reward if he would accuse his Master; so I must own to you, I was uneasy at his frequent Visitors, when I consider'd how they disturb'd his Mind, and how much they took up of his precious Moments.

The Ordinary, my Lords, leaves room for other People to tempt Gregg (if he indeed was tempted) to betray his Master, and does not lay it on your Lordships wholly, if at all. He talks of many Persons, and of frequent Visitors, that resorted to the Prisoner, and says He knew not who they were. Now, I believe, that tho' your Lordships may not know the Ordinary of Newgate, yet He may very probably know your Lordships, after a fight or two, at least; and it is not likely that you came in a Disguise, or Singly, or in the Dark. 'Tis likely enough that a Committee of Seven Great Peers would be as quickly known as any other People. He knew the Friends of Mr. H. it seems, because he made his complaints to them, of the frequent Resort of

Visi-

Visitors to Gregg. Now it is not very probable, that the *Ordinary* should complain of the frequent *Visits* made by the *Lords of the Committee*. One might therefore imagine, that if there were any *Subornation* in the Case, it should not necessarily follow, that your Lordships were the *Suborners*. And therefore if I had been the *Examiner*, I would not (for the mere sake of Reason and Justice) have charg'd your Lordships only, with *Subornation* and intended *Murther*, when other People might, as easily, be guilty of it. But nothing below the *Greatest Quality* can be abus'd by him. He has (because he is so great a Man with the new Governors) led *Francis Hoffman* to make the very same conclusion, notwithstanding all his good Correspondent the *Ordinary* has said. *Who those Persons were* (says *Francis*) *that offer'd GREGG his Life, with great Preferments and Advantages* (if he would but accuse his Master) may not uneasily be guess'd at, for, most of the time he was lock'd up, NONE BUT PEOPLE OF NOTE were permitted to come near him, who made him strange Promises, and often repeated them. Here, I think, the matter is brought within a little compass. The *Ordinary* left the *Subornation* to abundance of People, who might share the Guilt, and whom, he says, he knew not. But *Hoffman* pins us down to *Persons of Note only*; and for fear we should not, after all this, know whom he means by *People of Note*, he has caus'd your Lordships

Names

Names to be Printed *at length*, at the Conclusion of the Libel; only (to screen himself from the Vengeance of the Law) he has put over those your Names, the Title, I have presum'd to Address you by, *viz. The Committee of Lords appointed to Examine Gregg*—were the Duke of &c.

And now I Challenge all the Books in the *New Lord's Library* (because I hear it is the largest) to furnish us with an instance like this— Where *Seven Great Peers*, distinguish'd by their *Birth, Estates, Honours, Offices*, and great *Abilities*, as much as any Seven besides in all the Kingdom, have been, day after day, expos'd to the Rage of an irritated People, in *Penny-Papers*, as the most Villainous *Suborners, Murtherers, and Assassines*, because they were appointed by the *House of Lords*, to *Examine Gregg* and see if they could bring him to discover, who (if any one) was privy to his Corresponding with the Queen's Enemies : And promised him, it may be, to obtain his *Pardon*, if he would make a full Discovery. I do not know that such a promise was made of Pardon, but I suppose it was, because no other Offer could, 'tis probable, prevail to the making a Discovery of that kind ; and it is what is every Day done, by the Ministers of State, and must be done, if they will gain the Secrets they want to know : And it is no more than was very lately

lately done (and rightly done) to the *Sieur de Guiscard* himself; The D. of O —, and the *Secretaries of State*, and several *Privy Councillors*, went to him in the *Prison*, and Examined him, put several Questions to him, and tried, if it were possible, to bring him to confess who were his Accomplices, and promised him the *Queen's Pardon*, if he would make a full Discovery. Would any but an *Examiner*, a *Post boy*, or such Licentious Writers, charge these Honourable Councillors with *Suborning Guiscard*. by Promises of Pardon, and Life, and Pension to accuse the Innocent, and betray his Friends? Is this the turn that any one, but a Villain, would give to such an Inquiry, and Examination? Supposing *Guiscard* had been intimate with some *Great Officer* of State, and had been suspected to Communicate his most Secret Affairs to this *Great Officer*, had it been *Subornation*? had it been *seeking the Life and Blood* of this *Great Officer*, in these *Great Lords* of the *Council*, if they had narrowly examined this Affair, inquired with all Exactness, what he knew of this *Great Officer*, what Secrets he had imparted to him, and whether he were Privy to his Corresponding with the Banker *Moreau*, or any thing more Dangerous? The Injury (if any) had not been, in pressing *Guiscard* to say what he knew of this *Great Officer*, and in promising to obtain his Pardon, if he would discover all he knew; but it had

been in *Suspecting* him if Innocent : And how far that may be done without any manner of Ill-will, Malice, or Mischievous Design, I leave to all the World to judge : But of this I am certain, that when once a *Great Officer* is suspected, there is no coming at him (ordinarily speaking) but by such Ways and Promises as these, of *Pardon* and *Life*, to such as are thought to be in his Interests and Secrets, and will, for such a Recompence, discover them. And therefore the *Patience* (I must say no more) of our New Governors, is hardly less to be wondered at, than the Insolence and Wickedness of these Audacious Wretches, in suffering the *Peerage* of *England*, and *Seven such Noble Lords*, to be treated like the most Flagitious Villains, for doing what Courts, and Ministers of State have always done, and always must do, if they will preserve the Crown and secure the People. But this, it seems, is the thing that is so much in Fashion ! to Run down a *Set of Men*, for taking such Courses in their Ministration, as those who succeed them *must* take, or ten times worse ! to make the Common People believe they have been beggar'd and undone, by such a management of Affairs, for some years past ; when it is very well known, that those Affairs are still under the *like* Management, and must be so, because there is no better ! This way of *Representing* Things and Persons, and rend'ring them

them Odious both to Prince and People, may serve a present turn, but it is certainly (as all things Wicked are) the falsest Policy that can be, not only because the Cheat is soon detected, but because it will as soon destroy those who use it, when the humour of Change comes on, as those against whom it is used. When a King, thro' the Multitudes of Complaints, Secret Teazings, and Importunate Clamors of a Rout of People (led by their *Priests*, and Spirited underhand by Crafty *Emissaries*) hath been brought to discard his old Officers, who had, till then, been accounted Able, Faithful, Diligent, and Dutiful, and by whose Service he had lived, Glorious Abroad, and Easy and Beloved at Home ; but who have of late been *Represented* to Him, as Weak, False, Careless, and Insolent, such as have engag'd Him in Desperate Measures Abroad, and run Him at Home into Immense Debts, and caused Him to be ill thought of by his overburthened and abused Subjects : When this Prince comes, in time, to consider his Affairs, and finds things go much as they used to go, that his New Servants (tho' every day finding fault with the Old Ones) take the same Courses, go on in the Old Methods, and give him the same Counsel and Advice, on like Occasions, and when they find themselves in Straits, and under any new Exigencies (as such will be, in spite of all

the Care and Caution in the World) they are forced to go out of the Common way, and do as well as they can, just as their Predecessors did : When the King finds this (as he will, in a year or two, if he make any Observations at all) He will consider, who they were that made those Complaints, that rais'd those Cries, that Cheated those poor Priests, that Spirited those Multitudes, that taught them what to say; what to Petition from Him, what to promise for themselves, and who they were that encouraged them to come, and *hawk-ed* to introduce them ; and that after all, He has only chang'd Hands, got new Faces about him, and is serv'd (it may be) with more obsequious Words, more humble Adorations, and a more seeming Resignation to his Will and Pleasure, than he was before ; but that his Affairs Abroad are in no better Posture, that his Influence is no greater on his Neighbouring Princes and States, nor his People at Home eased of one Penny-Tax, or Publick Credit in better Health, or Trade increas'd, or his Subjects in better Humour. The Prince I say, will consider this, and tho' he will not think of calling for his Old Servants again, because He will not be thought to be Inconstant, or to have been misled, or over-reach'd, or because He will not bear the uneasiness which even the

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the Looks of Wrongfully suspected Servants, tho' restor'd to Favour, give ; and tho' He will much less think of discarding his new Choice, upon the finding his Mistakes, yet every Body will agree, that He is in the readiest Disposition to such a Change, that can be ; and that he wants no handle or pretence to do it, on whatever Day of the Week he pleases to begin. The Example is set, The People are ever ready to be moved ; the Priests are seldom wanting to become the Tools of Cunning Managers ; and let but the Inclination of the *Great Superiour* once be made to appear, the *Revolution of Ministry* follows naturally and easily.

I say therefore, that it is matter of Wonder to many People, to see such *Representations* of the late Management of Publick Affairs, so little Discountenanc'd by those who Manage them, at present. To see the *Greatest Ministers of State* we ever had (*till now*) treated by a Poor *Paper-Pedlar*, every *Thursday*, like the veriest *Rascals* in the Kingdom ; and as oft besides, as any of his *Scribbling Brethren* please. This great Indignity and Insolence, if common Honesty could Suffer, yet common Prudence and good Policy should not. I could, if it were needful, bring a great many Instances, of this Licentious way of the *Scum of Man-*

Mankind's treating the *greatest Peers* in the Nation, but I have chosen to do it but in One, which tho' I have offered to those Lords that are more particularly concern'd, yet it will I hope be seriously considered by all others of that Quality, and by those especially who have it in their hands to repress such daring Insolence and Wick- edness; least; People should come, in time, to think they like it, and encourage it; than which a worse thing can scarcely be said of them. And yet it is so observa- ble, that no body can easily overlook it, that these *Hedge-Writers* seldom speak a word against these *Seven* or any other *Lords* of the *late Ministry*, but they presently fall to Complimenting the *New L. F——ite*, and others in great Places, as tho' they wanted it; or shone more bright by the Com- parison; or could receive additional esteem from the Applauses of such base Breath. Cannot the Successors be Excellent Men, unless the Predecessors be Villains? Can- not they who are in great Offices, be very Worthy of them, unless those who lately left them, be Represented the most Odious and Abominable of Mankind? Cannot the Q. change Ministers, but they must presently be *such as neither God nor Man can endure*? Do Noble Men fall from all Honour, Virtue, and Religion, because they are so unhappy as to fall from their

their Prince's Favour? These were not used to be the Consequences of such Placings and Displacings. But this it is, for poor unskilful Sycophants, to think of pleasing Great Men in Offices. They heap up all the vile, dishonourable, reproachful, wicked things, that they alone can think on, and then throw them on the Predecessors Heads of their New *Patrons*; least, otherwise, it should be wondred at how they should come to loose their Places, and their *Patrons* get into them. But neither are their *Patrons* Heads so weak, nor their Hearts so vain, as to receive with any satisfaction such Accounts, either of others or of themselves; they know them both, much better. When Men have long supported their Characters with Honour and Reputation, and the whole Kingdom has approved and applauded their good Services, and Providence has Crown'd them with astonishing Success, Years after Years, it is not the sudden turn of a giddy Multitude, made to believe and call them *Villains and betrayers of their Country*, that will make them truly such, with serious People: They may, for the present be abused, and treated as if they were truly such; but Men will recover their Senses; the Witchcraft will wear off; these publick Cheats will be every Day more and more detected: In a word, as fast as the People

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of *England* return to their understanding and Sobriety of Mind, so fast will these *Great Men* recover their Esteem and Credit; and tho' they may never enjoy (as I hope they will never want) their *Places* again; Yet 'tis great odds but some of their *Places* may come to want them, which is much worse for the Kingdom. And because I will do the fairest thing in the World; I will appeal to the King of *France* and all his *Councillors*, to the *Pretender* and all his Favourers and Abettors, to the King's of *Spain*, *Denmark*, and *Sweden*, the *Electors*, *Princes* of *Germany* and *Italy*, and to the *States*, as *Wise* as *High* and *Mighty*, i.e. I will appeal to all the *Enemies* and *Friends* we have in *Europe*, to give their Judgment, whether they think the *Late Ministry* were wanting in *Faithfulness*, *Ability*, or *Diligence*, to serve their Prince and Country.

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